

Notice of Allowability**Application No.**

09/995,243

Applicant(s)

LUMLEY ET AL.

Examiner

Joseph S. Del Sole

Art Unit

1722

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the response of 9/26/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10 and 18-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 06 March 2002 and 26 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. <u>1003</u> |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____ | 6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Mr. EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. The drawings were received on 9/26/03. These drawings are accepted.
2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with James Brown on October 27, 2003.

The application has been amended as follows:

in the claims:

cancel claims 11-17 (see attached listing).

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest a pastillation machine with a distribution system having a bar having a bore extending therethrough; a series of holes located on an inlet surface of the bar; a series of slots located on an outlet surface of the bar; a diffuser located in the bore of the bar, the diffuser being spaced between the inlet surface and the outlet surface and the series of holes is aligned with flowable substance outlets of the pastillation machine.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Application/Control Number: 09/995,243
Art Unit: 1722

Page 3

Correspondence

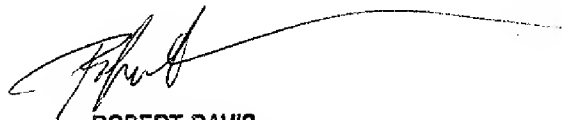
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph S. Del Sole whose telephone number is (703) 308-6295. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ms. Wanda Walker, can be reached at (703) 308-0457. The official fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306 for both non-after finals and for after finals.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

Joseph S. Del Sole

J.S.D.
October 27, 2003



ROBERT DAVIS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1806/7200

10/20/03

Claims

1. (Original) In a pastillation machine, an improved distribution system comprising:
 - a bar having a bore extending therethrough;
 - a series of holes located on an inlet surface of said bar;
 - a series of slots located on an outlet surface of said bar;
 - a diffuser located in said bore of said bar, said diffuser being spaced between said inlet surface and said outlet surface; andwherein said series of holes is aligned with flowable substance outlets of said pastillation machine.
2. (Original) The distribution system claimed in claim 1 wherein said bar is comprised of two separate pads that are coupled together.
3. (Original) The distribution system claimed in claim 2 wherein said bar is comprised of a distribution bar and a feeder bar, said distribution bar having a bore extending therethrough and being nested in said feeder bar and secured thereto.
4. (Original) The distribution system claimed in claim 3 wherein said feeder bar is a softer material than said distribution bar.
5. (Original) The distribution system claimed in claim 4 wherein said feeder bar is ductile iron.
6. (Original) The distribution system claimed in claim 5 wherein said distribution bar is steel.
7. (Original) The distribution system claimed in claim 1 wherein said bore is rectangular in cross-section.

8. (Original) The distribution system claimed in claim 1 wherein said inlet surface of said bar is comprised of steel.

9. (Original) The distribution system claimed in claim 1 wherein said inlet surface of said bar is comprised of type 316 stainless steel.

10. (Original) The distribution system claimed in claim 1 wherein said outlet surface of said bar is comprised of ductile iron.

Claims 11-17 (cancelled)

18. (Original) A pastillation machine, said machine comprising:

- a first cylinder having a first end and a second end and an outer surface, said first cylinder being supported at said first end and said second end;

- a cavity formed in said first cylinder, said cavity being in communication with a source of a flowable substance;

- a slot formed in said outer surface of said first cylinder, said slot being located between said first end and said second end;

- fluid outlets located in said slot, said outlets being in communication with said cavity of said first cylinder;

- a second cylinder surrounding said first cylinder and being rotatable thereon, said second cylinder having rows of openings therein;

- a distribution bar sized to fit into said slot and being sandwiched between said inner cylinder and said outer cylinder, said distribution bar having an inlet surface and an outlet surface and a bore extending therethrough;

a series of holes located on said inlet surface, said holes being aligned with said fluid outlets of said first cylinder for receiving said flowable substance therefrom;

a series of slots located on said outlet surface, said series of slots of said distribution bar being in communication with said rows of openings in succession;

a diffuser located between said inlet surface and said outlet surface, said diffuser bar extending axially through said bore of said distribution bar; and

wherein as said openings of said outer cylinder pass over said series of slots of said distribution bar, a predetermined amount of flowable substance passes through said openings and drops onto a conveyor located below said pastillation machine.

19. (Original) A machine as claimed in claim 18 wherein said diffuser further comprises a centering device having a series of tabs extending outwardly from opposing edges of said diffuser.

20. (Original) A machine as claimed in claim 19 wherein said tabs are formed in pairs along the length of said diffuser and alternating pairs of said tabs are bent in opposing directions.